



of Engineers . New Orleans District National Environmental Policy Act "NEPA"

- Required for all major Federal actions
- Analyze potential impacts to the human and natural environment and investigate reasonable alternatives
- Analyses documented in Environmental Assessments (EA), Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), or Individual Environmental Reports (IER)
- Public involvement is KEY: <u>We want to hear from you</u>!
- Goal: more informed decision making through public involvement



# **IER #4**

## New Orleans Lakefront Levees & Floodwalls

Purpose and Need: Provide for the 100-year Level of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System





## Where We Are:

- March/April 07: NEPA Process began with Public Scoping Meetings
- Nov 07 through May 08: Developing alternatives and conducting impacts analysis and soliciting public input

## Where We Are Going:

- May 08: Release Draft IER #4
- June 08: End of 30-day Public Review, Make Final Decision District Commander signs final IER document

#### New Orleans Lakefront Levee - Current Construction: Phase 1 of 100-year level of protection



LPV 101-17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal to Topaz Street: *Currently in* Design Phase

Anticipated contract award: 1 Qtr '09 LPV 102-Topaz Street to Orleans Avenue:

Contract Awarded 3 Oct 07

90% Complete

LPV 103-Orleans Avenue Canal to London Avenue Canal:

Contract Awarded 3 Dec 07

8% Complete

LPV 104-London Avenue Canal to IHNC:

Contract Awarded 13 July 07

81% Complete

## New Orleans Lakefront Levee Phase 1A & 2 of 100-year Level of Protection



- Alternatives:
  - No action
  - Raise homes and businesses (non-structural)
- Modifications or replacement of floodwalls / gates
- Additional embankment work to meet new design criteria
- Raise Road Ramps
- Armoring of transitions & utility crossings

## What Has Changed

Alternatives being considered:

- 1) Modify the Bayou St. John sector gate structure, floodwalls and levees along Bayou St. John.
- 2) Construct levee with sluice gates across Bayou St. John on lakeward side of bridge

Feet

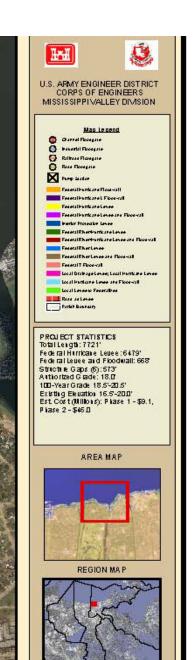
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3) Construct levee with sector gate across Bayou St. John on lakeward side of bridge



#### IER #5 US Army Corps of Engineers. New Orleans District Permanent Protection System for the Outfall Canals



#### **Purpose and Need**

Protect City of New Orleans and Jefferson Parish from storm surgeinduced flooding through the 17th St, Orleans Ave, and London Ave Canals, while not impeding the ability of the area's internal drainage system to remove storm water.



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## **Status**

## Where We Are:

- March/April 07: NEPA Process began with Public Scoping Meetings
- April 07 through Nov 07: Alternatives developed
- Nov 07 through March 08: Conduct Impacts Analysis, continue Solicitation of Public Input and Complete Draft IER #5

## Where We Are Going:

- Early April 08: Release Draft IER #5 (including proposed action alternative and site locations) for 30-day public comment period
- Corps to hold a public meeting during 30-day public comment period; date To Be Determined
- Mid/Late May 08: Make Final Decision District Commander signs the IER document.



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## How we collected input

## **Public Input**

- Frequent public meetings
- Numerous meetings with parties potentially directly impacted
- Numerous emails, phone calls, letters, petition, resolutions
- Partnering sessions with potential non-federal sponsors
- Alternatives selection workshop

#### **Technical Input**

- Senior Review Panel
- Monthly interagency team meetings
- Analysis of Impacts to important resources (human and natural)
- Engineering support team



# **Snapshot of Public Comments**

- Avoid or minimize destruction of wetlands and non-wet bottomland hardwoods
- Avoid taking of public lands and green space
- Avoid disruption of neighborhoods
- For and against locating pump station along Bellaire Dr.
- For and against use of UNO properties
- Opposition to taking of II Tony's Restaurant



# **Snapshot of Public Comments**

- Avoid disruption of re-development of West End
- Disruption of Coconut Beach hampers recreational opportunities
- Pump stations should blend into the neighborhood
- Protection first, aesthetics second
- Hoey's Basin Pump to the River should be implemented
- Pump station at or in the lake is safest location
- Pump station at lake detracts from neighborhood quality of life and property values



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# **NEPA Alternatives Summary**

- 1. No Action (NEPA Mandated)\*
- 2. Non-Structural (WRDA Mandated)
- 3. Barrier Plan
- 4. Canal Closure
- 5. Parallel Protection\*
- 6. Canal Closure and Pumps\*
- Additional Features\*

\*Indicates alternatives carried through impacts analysis

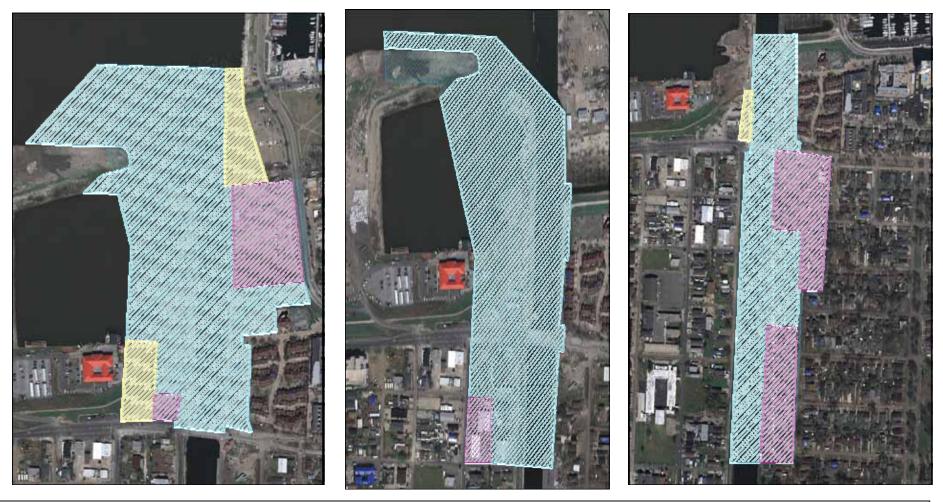


#### Location A

# What Has Changed 17<sup>th</sup> Street Site Locations

**Location B** 

**Location C** 



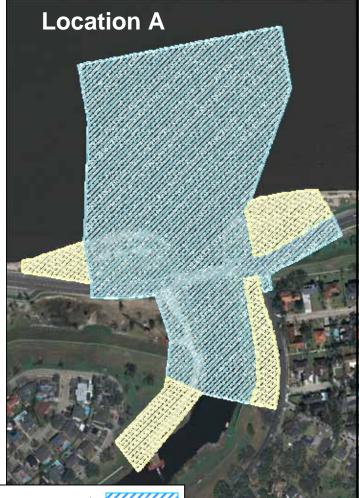
Permanent

Temporary

Minimize Impacts







Permanent //////

**Location B** 



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## What Has Changed Orleans Ave. Site Locations

**Location C** 



Location D

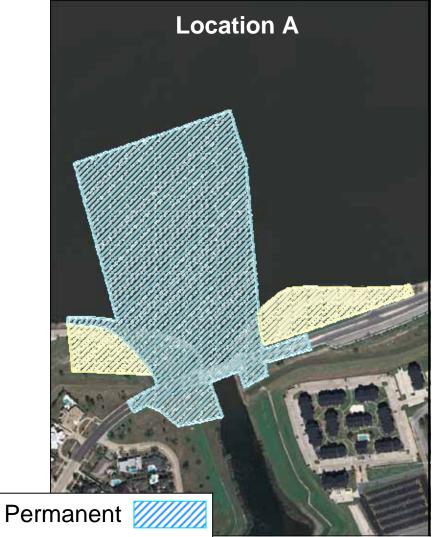


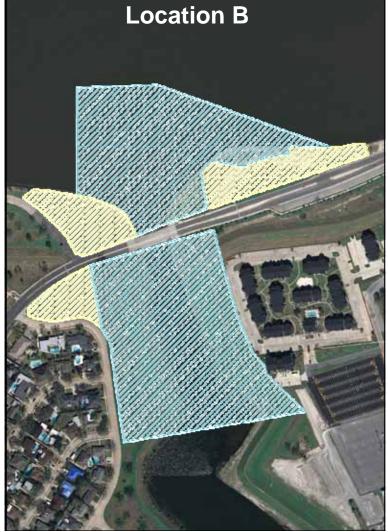
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## What Has Changed London Ave. Site Locations

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Temporary



## What Has Changed London Ave. Site Locations

#### **Location C**

**Location D** 

**Location E** 







Minimize Impacts





# **Opportunities for Public Input**

- Monthly Public Meetings throughout New Orleans Metro Area
  - Make sure to sign in tonight to get on our meeting notification mailing list
- Comments can be submitted at any time at <u>www.nolaenvironmental.gov</u>
- Individual Environmental Reports (IER) 30-day Public Review

Questions and comments regarding Hurricane Protection Projects should be addressed to:

Gib Owen PM-RS P.O. Box 60267 New Orleans, LA 70160-0267 Telephone: 504-862-1337 <u>E-mail: mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil</u>





Environmental Processes and NEPA Compliance What is NEPA?



USACE-MVN Emergency Alternative Arrangements West Bank & Vicinity & Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity Hurricane Protection Projects

USACE NEPA Questions & Answers

USACE Alternative Arrangements NEPA Process USACE Alternative Arrangements NEPA Process Appendix Welcome to NOLA Environmental! This site has been set up to share with the public the efforts being made by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other Federal and state agencies in south Louisiana regarding the environmental compliance for proposed Federal and state Hurricane Protection Projects. Additional information pertaining to other Federal and state agencies' hurricane recovery efforts in southeast Louisiana will also be posted on the site as it becomes available.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District implemented Alternative Arrangements on March 13, 2007 under the provisions of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR § 1506.11). This process was implemented in order to expeditiously complete environmental analysis for the 100-year level of Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction effort authorized and funded by the Administration and the Congress. The proposed actions are located in southern Louisiana area and relate to the Federal effort to rebuild the Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction system in the New Orleans Metropolitan area as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. (Learn More)

IER 18 Government Furnished Borrow Draft Report Public Comment Period: Oct. 28, 2007 - Dec. 04, 2007

IER 19 Contractor Furnished Borrow Draft Report Public Comment Period: Nov. 2, 2007 - Dec. 6, 2007

#### UPCOMING EVENTS: Public Meetings

Nov. 29, 2007 7:00 - 9:00 pm (Open House: 6:00 - 7:00 pm), Orleans East Bank (IER 5) Dec. 06, 2007 7:00 - 9:00 pm (Open House: 6:00 - 7:00 pm), St. Charles (IER 1, 2, 3) Dec. 11, 2007 7:00 - 9:00 pm (Open House: 6:00 - 7:00 pm), Environmental Justice





## Questions

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